

Dear Honorable Board Members,

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My name is Chad Bowers im 17 years old and currently I'm a senior at Hamilton High East and a 2nd year student at the Mercer County Technical Schools-Sypek Center. When I started high school, I had no idea what life was going to bring me with career choices and school. My grades weren't the best and I was struggling to find something I wanted to pursue a career in. Midway through my sophomore year at Steinert I heard on the announcements and through my peers that there was a vocational program that students can go to for half the school day. It caught my attention right away. I found a brochure at a meeting and started to look through it. I saw a few programs that caught my eye. There was so many choices to choose from with the wide variety of classes. I looked into it and decided to take the Graphic Arts Technology Program.

The atmosphere of being at the Tech School is a lot of fun. I am really happy with what I am doing here. The faculty is very nice and helpful as well. The teachers all are very good in their fields and will help all students pursue our careers through college or any jobs directly from here. Since coming here I've enjoyed being at school and its giving me a desire to do better. Now college has become an option of where I can be someday. Along with learning our technical fields we also learn alot about diversity and working as a team with others.

I have made made many new friends here that I never would have had unless I came here and I'm grateful for that. These are friendships which I'll take along with me in life. I also have inspired another person to come to this school which means a lot to me. My friend would take

me home from school everyday and see all of my work and was impressed. Now he is currently a first year student in Graphic Arts here at the Sypek Center.

Being here at the Sypek Center has been one of the best times of my life. It gives me so many great opportunities that not everyone gets a chance to have. I want other kids to be able to experience what I have encountered here. If it weren't for the Mercer County Technical Schools, I would still be a student at Steinert with probably no aim or goals in life. Taking a place like this away from the students just isn't right. This is one of the greatest school programs run for kids. It gives everyone a chance no matter how smart you are to succeed in something in school and in life. While in class I've made some accomplishments I'm proud of. I placed third in a skills contest for 1st and 2nd year students and I'm currently in the A.C.E.S. (Advisory Counsel of Elite Students) Program where I'm a peer leader for the school. Everyones self esteem goes up from attending classes here. So when we do go out to the world we are able to understand and compete at a new and better level. Adding more work to the day would take away from being able to compete as well in the careers we want to pursue.

Just think how many lives would be affected if you take this program away. I'm so grateful and lucky for being able to come to a place like this. Not many students have a place like this to go too. Is this something you think students should be not allowed to have anymore? I hope not. After many months and years of hard work to start building our new careers we now have a new strong family and community commitment. It would be a mistake to take this place away from us and future students.